



Nov. 8, 2011

Contact: David Boyd, Public Affairs Specialist, (970) 876-9008
Chris Pipkin, Outdoor Recreation Planner, (970) 244-3024

Grand Junction BLM Rec Planner Named “Land Manager of the Year”

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. -- Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado recently awarded a Bureau of Land Management Grand Junction outdoor recreation planner its Land Manager of the Year award.

Chris Pipkin, who has worked with the recreation program at the BLM Grand Junction Field Office since 1993, received the award at the VOC volunteer recognition dinner in Denver Nov. 5.

“Chris is totally committed to getting people involved in caring for our public lands in a hands-on way,” said Sue Anderson, VOC Director of Programs. “He has successfully managed the BLM’s partnership with VOC on a number of outdoor stewardship projects in the Grand Junction area.”

Pipkin has served as an instructor for VOC’s Outdoor Stewardship Institute since 2007, teaching volunteers the basics of trail building, trail maintenance, and successful crew leadership. Most recently, he was instrumental in the development of a new partnership between the BLM and VOC to build the volunteer management capacity of the BLM in Grand Junction.

Through this partnership, a VOC employee has been hired as full time volunteer and partnership coordinator for the Grand Junction Field Office.

“My first experience working with Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado was in 1988 when I was a freshman at Colorado State University and volunteered for a VOC trail construction project north of Ft. Collins at Phantom Canyon,” Pipkin said “That project was instrumental in getting me hooked on trail building and trail management, which has been one of the major focuses of my career with the BLM.”

Pipkin graduated from CSU in wildlife biology in 1992.

Pipkin has received numerous awards for his contributions to public lands stewardship and volunteer development. In 2006, he was the recipient of the Bureau of Land Management’s “Making a Difference” National Volunteer Award for his accomplishments in improving the quality and sustainability and trails in the Grand Junction area and for his work in recruiting and

motivating a powerful volunteer workforce. Locally, Mesa County Partners chose him to receive the Pete Larson Memorial Award in 2010 and Hilltop Community Resources selected him as a Hometown Hero in May 2008 for providing at risk youth with valuable educational opportunities through trail building on public lands.

Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado is a statewide nonprofit volunteer organization whose mission is to motivate and enable citizens to be active stewards of Colorado's natural resources. Since 1984, more than 60,000 citizens led by skilled volunteer leaders have helped protect, conserve, sustain, and enhance Colorado's natural places through their work with VOC – a total donated labor value of over \$16 million. Throughout the year, VOC offers hands-on opportunities for people of all ages and skill levels to volunteer outdoors and help with stewardship efforts such as restoring trails in wilderness areas, constructing paths in city parks, and protecting fragile riverside habitat. For more information, go to www.voc.org.

###